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12th Aviation Group

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 12TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT)
APO San Francisco 96266

AVBACA-SC

14 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat),
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities:

a. (U) Mission: No Change.

b. (U) Organization:

(1) The 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat) to include the 758th Medical Detachment, 162nd Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter), 135th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter), 191st Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter), and 147th Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter) was transferred from the 12th Aviation Group (Combat) to the 164th Aviation Group (Combat) per GO 2885, Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade, dated 22 June 1969.

(2) B Troop, 3/17th Air Cavalry Squadron was transferred from Dong Tam to Di An.

(3) Stationing List and Organizational Chart: See Inclosure 1.

c. (U) Personnel:

(1) COL Leo D. Turner, 460-64-3760, IN, assumed duties as Commanding Officer, 12th Avn Gp on 26 May vice COL Herb D. Prather, 521-12-6512, IN.

(2) LTC Jack Seliskar, 470-26-3170, IN, assumed duties as Group Executive Officer on 27 May vice LTC John J. Phillips, 460-30-1581, AR.

(3) MAJ Gordon M. Hunt, 031-26-0064, IN, assumed duties as Group S-1 on 31 May vice MAJ David L. Forte, 439-52-3896, IN.

(4) LTC Charles A. Edwards, 421-52-8669, ADA, assumed duties as Group S-3 on 22 May vice LTC John J. Top, 525-60-9883, FA.

(5) MAJ Robert R. Holt, 233-46-9947, SC, assumed duties as Group Signal

FOR OT UT

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Inclosure

1

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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14 August 1969 -

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for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (ACB CorO.L-65) (RI) (U).

Officer on 2 June vice MAJ Dawson L. Burton, 419-38-8270, SC.

(6) CPT Joseph B. Winters, 486-38-1102, IN, assumed duties as Group Safety Officer on 22 May vice CPT Gary W. Vance, 446-40-0981, IN.

(7) CPT Victor L. Donnell, 460-60-4181, AR, assumed duties as C Officer HHC on 1 July vice CPT Allen W. Wade, 223-52-9848, FA.

(8) MAJ Dudley R. Price, 231-38-7511, MC, assumed duties as Group Medical Officer on 24 July vice MAJ Eric E. Lindstrom, 359-32-8212, MC.

(9) MAJ Jimmy J. McGraw, 447-30-6751, SC, assumed duties as Group S-2 on 24 July vice MAJ Roy H. Herron, 249-62-5505, FA.

(10) MAJ Raleigh J. Meyer, 544-32-3564, ADA, assumed duties as Group S-4 on 24 July vice MAJ Charles R. Puckett, 234-42-3439, IN.

d. Unit Strength: Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat) as of 1 August 1969:

(1) Military:

Auth Off	O/H	Auth WO	O/H	Auth EM	O/H	Auth TOTAL	
26	28	1	10	68	144	95	182

(2) Civilian:

DAC	VN	3rd Nat	Proj 6	Contractor	TOTAL
0	1*	6 6	0 0	2 2	0 1** 8 10

(*) AVCOM - attached

(**) LYCOMING - attached

e. (U) Aircraft Status as of 31 July 1969:

UH-1D Auth	O/H	OH-6A Auth	O/H	U-6A Auth	O/H
2	2	2	1	2	1**

(**) Hand received to 74th RAC.

f. (U) Operational Results as of 31 July 1969: Reported by assigned battalions/squadrons.

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AVBNCA-SC

14 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat), for Period ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

g. (U) Training:

(1) The Army Aviation Refresher Training School (AARTS) has added two courses, which will alleviate the critical shortage of helicopter technical inspectors and CH-47 Maintenance Supervisors within the Group. 12th Avn Gp (Cbt) was allocated twenty-three (23) quotas for Helicopter Technical Inspector Course during 1st Quarter FY 70 and six (6) quotas for CH-47 Maintenance Supervisor Course for the two months of July and August 1969. All other quotas allocated for 1st Quarter FY 70 in aircraft maintenance and supply were adequate for the Group's needs.

(2) Indoctrination of Commanders and Army Aviators in aircraft operation procedures, 1st Aviation Brigade Regulation 95-26, and Counter Sapper Training, 1st Aviation Brigade Regulation 350-5 were integrated into a revised 12th Aviation Group (Combat) Training Regulation 350-1 dated 24 July 1969.

h. (C) Intelligence and Security:

(1) The S-2 section continued in its capacity as the focal point for advice to the commander and staff supervisors for matters pertaining to personnel security and the safeguarding of classified material.

(2) A strong emphasis was continued on the handling of all classified material. In addition, strong re-emphasis was made on the destruction of official correspondence, orders, organization charts, installation maps or sketches, bulletins, telephone directories and personal mail.

(3) The Group Headquarters maintained a very strong security posture. The S-2 section conducted periodic unannounced security inspections on Headquarters staff sections and Headquarters Company. Security posters were displayed in all staff sections and throughout headquarters company; security reminders were posted on all telephones throughout the group headquarters. All incoming personnel received briefings on SAEDA, Pen Pal and Unsolicited correspondence, in addition to a security briefing.

(4) The quarterly Inspection for Clandestine Surveillance and Listening Devices was conducted on all units down to the company level.

(5) The quarterly unannounced Counter Intelligence Inspection was conducted by the 219th Military Intelligence Detachment on 14 June 1969. The S-2 section was given a thorough inspection to include the inspection of all security containers, proper checks and double-check procedures and a general inspection for unsecured documents. No discrepancies were noted during this inspection.

(6) A pre AGI Inspection was conducted on this section by G-2, 1st Aviation Brigade on 29 July 1969, to include the inspection of SECRET documents.

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14 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat), for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (ACCS C:FO.6-05) (R1) (U).

receipt files, destruction certificates and procedures for briefing incoming personnel. Several minor deficiencies were noted in procedures concerning logging of classified documents. In addition, the Pre R&R SALDA briefings forms were not being maintained by Headquarters Company in the proper manner. These deficiencies have been corrected since this inspection.

(7) A thorough review of all classified documents was made for the purpose of downgrading and/or destruction. As a result 150 CONFIDENTIAL documents and 62 SECRET documents were destroyed. At present, 63 SECRET documents remain in the classified repository.

(8) All subordinate units were given a CI inspection, and 3 pre AGI inspections were conducted by the Group S-2 office.

(b) Intelligence Statistics:

(1) The classified repository and distribution facility operated by the S-2 section processed approximately 16,991 incoming and outgoing pieces of CONFIDENTIAL material and 115 incoming and outgoing SECRET documents.

(2) Also during the period, a total of 146 security clearances and personnel security investigations were processed.

i. Enemy Activity: Enemy activity during this quarter was marked with an increase in reports for proposed enemy operations, especially in the Tay Ninh area, and a decrease in actual enemy activity. At this time the divisional elements have returned to the northern corps base areas after the offensive stance that they had taken during the "Spring-Summer" campaign. The Sub-region forces, particularly in SR-1, have been emphasizing the sapper and guerrilla tactics, at least in training. The next period of proposed enemy activity is towards the end of August (19 Aug to 20 Sep) with main and local units playing the major part.

j. Escape and Evasion:

(1) During the reporting period, the E&E Officer conducted staff visits to subordinate battalions. These visits provided the units with guidance and assistance pertaining to survival, escape and evasion.

(2) One hundred and thirty-five (135) E&E plastic maps were issued to subordinate units during the reporting period, and 95 "Blood Chits" were issued.

k. (U) Safety:

(1) During this reporting period the 12th Avn Gp (Cbt) accident rate decreased substantially. The Group experienced 14 accidents in May, 13 in June, and set a new low in July with 4 accidents. The rates during

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14 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat), for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1) (U).

these months were 22.1, 21.8, and 8.3 respectively. During this reporting period there has been a decrease in pilot error type accidents and also a decrease in fatalities. Emphasis is being placed on aviation safety along with standardization and maintenance. All units have safety programs, awards, and most publish their own safety news letters.

(2) During this reporting period there were 9 accidents as a result of material failure, 14 due to pilot error, 7 engine failures and 1 accident the cause of which is still unknown. This period of reporting has been during the monsoon season and flying conditions have been extremely hazardous. Continued emphasis is being placed on flying during this season.

1. (U) Logistics:

(1) Extensive use was made of the Commander's Critical Items List, (CCIL). 1st Logistical Command takes high priority requisitions, follows their progress and expedites action. This has proven very beneficial to subordinate units.

(2) Inspections and assistance visits were continued as before and greatly assisted the visits of the Group in preparation for AG1/CMMI Inspections.

(3) USARV conducted an inspection of all Army Aircraft Logistical Areas within the 125th Aviation Group (Combat). Overall the records, storage, and handling of ammunition was considered excellent.

m. (U) Medical:

(1) The Group Surgeon's Office, 12th Aviation Group (Combat) is now operating under TOE 1-252G. Personnel authorized by this TOE includes the Group Flight Surgeon, Major, MOS 3160, Medical Service Corps Administrative Officer, CPT, MOS 3506, section NCOIC, E-7, MOS 91B40, ambulance driver, E-4, MOS 91B20, and clerk typist, E-4, MOS 71B30. All of the positions were filled as of 15 July 1969.

(2) The office of the Surgeon has continued to provide:

(a) Technical and administrative assistance to the commander and his subordinate units.

(b) Medical support for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 12th Aviation Group (Combat). The policy continues to be in effect to provide area medical support to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th Engineer Group, 66th Engineer Company (TOPO), the 574th Engineer Detachment, and the aviation personnel of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. The total troop strength given medical support by this office now exceeds 500.

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AVBACA-SC

14 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat), for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1) (U).

(3) (a) The office of the Surgeon, 12th AG (C) has the dual responsibility for provision of staff and administrative support, and provision of HHC medical support.

(b) In the past, operational efficiency has been somewhat impaired with the physical integration of the two activities within a limited area of floor space. The voluntary gain of area medical support activities (HHC 79th Eng Gp, 66th Eng Co, 574th Eng Det) during the previous quarter has compounded the limitations imposed by the size of the existing facility.

(c) During the quarter, a request was made for additional physical plant.

(d) The acquisition of an additional structure was accomplished in June 1969, providing an increase of approximately 500 square feet of floor-space. This is to serve as the dispensary section. This will be physically separated from, but immediately adjacent to, the presently occupied area. The latter will be utilized exclusively for staff and administrative functions.

n. (U) Religious Activities:

(1) Troop visitation and contact by the Chaplain continues to be emphasized this quarter. As required, all replacement and rotating enlisted personnel are interviewed by his chaplain. Office hours for counseling are scheduled, and appointments are made as required.

(2) The Chaplains in Group now total seven. All battalions are covered by their Chaplain and these positions are TO&E. Additional coverage for denominational groups not represented by the assigned Chaplain is provided by Chaplains in neighboring units.

(3) The Chaplains provide area coverage in services both in battalion and in isolated company areas. Services are conducted in conference rooms, mess halls, and bunkers, as well as in Chapels. Increased opportunities in religious education have been provided by additional study groups and increased emphasis on Character Guidance.

(4) Group Chaplains continue to accompany the men on combat assault missions and also make visits to offices, flight lines, and other duty areas.

(5) The group Chaplain has frequently visited the Battalion Chaplains and all the company areas to provide supervision, coordination, and support for Chaplain activities. Each month one of the battalions hosts a Character Guidance Briefing and Training Conference for all Chaplains in Group.

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AVRACA-3C

14 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat), for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (II) (U).

(6) Chaplain activities in Group for this quarter can be summarized as follows:

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>	<u>CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Group Worship	450	+ 1%	20,108
Religious Education	383	+28%	11,567
Pastoral Visits Includes Counseling	16,689	+98%	N/A
Character Guidance	159	+65%	21,200
Civic Action	198	+15%	N/A

o. (U) Signal:

(1) Communications:

(a) The Signal Section moved the commcenter, radio facilities, and switchboard into the new Command Bunker on 13 July 1969. The new bunker is subterranean and provides a more hardened site for a tactical operation center than the old bunker. The new bunker is almost twice the size as the old bunker and provides a separate room for the tactical operation center in the event of a red alert. In addition, another separate room is available for emergency medical treatment if necessary.

(b) The intercom control unit was completely rewired by Air Force personnel from Tan Son Nhut, Saigon. All relays were replaced and a wiring and troubleshooting diagram was explained to members of the Signal Section. This control unit was also moved to the command bunker and new wires were installed throughout the system to insure a higher degree of reliability.

(c) With assistance from Lear Sigler Inc. (LSI), the TMC 146 HF radio was installed in the command bunker. Stations from the United States, Australia, and Japan can be clearly received on the radio. An ARC-51 UHF radio was also installed in the command bunker and provides a UHF air to ground capability for aircraft throughout the III Corps area.

(2) NOTAMS: The 12th Aviation Group (Combat) continues to transmit NOTAMS for II Field Force, Vietnam.

(3) Avionics:

(a) During this period, all units within the Group used the AN/ASC-10 or ASC-11 as command and control consoles with the exception of the 25th

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14 August 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat),
for Period ending 31 July 1969, (CS GOFOR-05) (RL) (U).

Aviation Company (Corps) which utilized the ASC-15. The use of these consoles provided all command and control aircraft with a secure FM capability. The AC-122 command console is no longer a controlled item by USAF and these consoles are being retained within the Group as operational spares.

(b) At the present time, 79% of the aircraft scheduled to receive the ZYA/ZYS retrofit modification, to include control head and mount, have been completed. The current problems that follow are being encountered:

- 1) The lack of control heads and mounts for the AH-1G.
- 2) UH-1's are arriving in-country and from units outside the Group without the modifications.
- 3) The cancellation of L.S.I.'s contract as of 30 June, and the requirement for AVEI South has no operation program established to accomplish the modification. This has virtually brought the retrofit program to a halt, and is causing a build-up of aircraft within the Group without the modifications. Plans are underway by 1st Avn Bde and 34th Group to resolve these problem areas.

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13 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCG CSFOR-65) (RI) (U)

2. (U) Section 2: Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, Recommendations, and Command Action Taken:

a. (U) Personnel:

(1) OBSERVATIONS: A critical shortage of helicopter technical inspectors existed.

(2) EVALUATION: To eliminate the shortage, a Technical Inspector Course was initiated at the Army Aviation Refresher Training School (AARTS) at Vung Tau. The course is limited to highly qualified individuals who are school trained in MOS 67N20, have a minimum of three months experience in rotary wing maintenance, and have six months remaining in RVN after completion of the course. This two week course is expected to graduate over twenty Tech Inspectors first quarter FY 70, which will greatly aid in the elimination of the critical shortage.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Since the number of school trained Tech Inspectors coming into country is expected to remain critical, it is imperative that the battalions screen personnel and utilize every Tech Inspector School allocation.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: Letter dated 24 June 1969, Subject: Army Aviation Refresher Training School Courses for 1st Quarter FY 70, HQ 12th Aviation Group (Combat), was sent to all battalions with school requirements and number of authorizations per battalion.

b. (U) Intelligence:

(1) OBSERVATION: That serious security problems could arise from the storage of SECRET documents at company level.

(2) EVALUATION: Because of the absence of Intelligence/Security trained personnel at company level, maintenance and storage of SECRET documents at company level is in most instances marginal and places an unnecessary burden on those individuals in each company assigned the duties of safeguarding classified material as additional duties.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That SECRET documents be maintained at battalion level and placed on a temporary hand receipt (DA Form 1203) to the companies as required and only for the minimum period needed for operational requirements.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: All SECRET documents presently at company level will be returned to their respective battalion repositories, with the exception of those in companies widely separated from their respective repository.

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AVBACA-SC

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (PCS CSFOR-65) (RI) (U)

c. (U) Operations: NONE.

d. (U) Training: NONE.

e. (U) Logistics: NONE.

f. (U) Medical: NONE.

g. (U) Safety:

(1) OBSERVATION: The 12th Aviation Group (Combat) set a record for least number of accidents during a calendar month with four (4) for the month of July 1969.

(2) EVALUATION: The increased emphasis that is being placed on aviation safety along with maintenance and standardization at all levels seems to be the prime reason for the significant decrease.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That continued emphasis be placed in the three above mentioned areas to insure an acceptable accident rate.

(4) COMMAND ACTION:

(a) Well Done Letters to each aviator who successfully negotiates an emergency situation.

(b) Unit Commanders reply by indorsement to the 12th Aviation Group (Combat Commander to explain pilot error or supervisory type accidents.

h. (U) Escape and Evasion: NONE.

i. (U) Signal: NONE.

j. (U) Aircraft Maintenance:

(1) OBSERVATION: The graduates of the Aircraft Maintenance Officers Course are arriving in Vietnam with no practical experience in Maintenance. Additionally, many NCO's in the ranks of E6 and E7, with experience in fields other than Maintenance, are only given a brief maintenance supervision course prior to assignment to Vietnam. Consequently, several maintenance supervisors arriving in country are school trained only and have no practical experience in the field.

(2) EVALUATION: In this regard, due to Department of the Army rotational policies to Vietnam, the supply of experienced maintenance officers and NCO's has been depleted. To alleviate this problem, The Aircraft Maintenance Officer

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AVBACA-SC

13 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (RI) (U)

Course has been accelerated, and many NCO's are being retrained in the Aircraft Maintenance MOS. As a result, this lack of maintenance experience shows up as a lack of knowledge in the following:

- (a) Establishing an orderly work flow.
- (b) Establishing maintenance priorities.
- (c) An appreciation of the tech supply, production control, quality control and the demand maintenance activities of a unit.

The inexperience prevalent in some units is reflected in extremely high and extremely low points in aircraft availability, thereby causing these units to operate on a crisis management basis.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS: That the POI be reevaluated and revised to give the graduate an appreciation of the frustration and turmoil of 24-hour-a-day combat operations. When he leaves the school, he must be geared to cope with this type of operations. Additionally, emphasis must be placed on the management of a continuous maintenance activity having a smooth flowing work schedule, rigidly supervised quality control, and a tightly controlled Tech Supply.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: Resultantly, this command is writing an Aircraft Maintenance Handbook. The purpose of this handbook is to teach the supervisory personnel how a maintenance activity is organized and the relation of its various functions to each other. The guidelines established in this book will be applicable to any aviation unit.



Leo D. TURNER
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

1 Incl
Stationing List/
Organizational Chart
Incl wd HQ, DA

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AVPBC-MB-H (2 Sep 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

DA, HQ II FFORCDEV, APO San Francisco 96266 4 SEP 1969

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBA-C, APO 96307

Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -
Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 12th Combat Aviation Group for the period
ending 31 July 1969.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



B. G. MACDONALD
ILT, AGC
Asst AG

AVBAGC-0 (14 Aug 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (ECS CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384 : SEP 1969

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the
contents as indorsed.

2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Paragraph 1b(1), page 1, discusses reassignment of the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat) and attachments. The reassignment of the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat) from the 12th Aviation Group (Combat) to the 164th Aviation Group (Combat) was effective 1 July 1969.

b. Paragraph 1b(2), page 1, refers to the relocation of B Troop, 3/17th Air Cavalry Squadron. B Troop, 3/17th Air Cavalry Squadron became operational at Di An 15 July 1969.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ARTHUR W. LITTLE
CPT AGC -
Asst AG.

CP
12th Avn Gp (Cbt)

AVHGC-DST (14 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 3 OCT 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

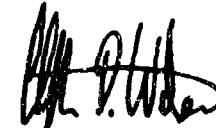
1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for
the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 12th Aviation
Group (Combat).

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Avionics," section I, page 7, paragraph
1, o, (3)(b). The shortage of control heads and mounts is not unique to the
AH-1G. Because of this shortage, the delivery of kits in RVN is slow and
the aircraft are arriving in RVN without having the modifications applied.
Two retrofit teams are being retained in RVN to perform this retrofit. Work
has virtually stopped due to the shortage of retrofit kits, which are scheduled
to begin arriving in RVN in late September.

b. Reference item concerning "Intelligence," section II, page 9, para-
graph 2b; concur. Centralized control of secret documents at battalion is an
effective security measure, provided the companies have complete access to the
documents required for the accomplishment of their mission. No action by
USARPAC or DA is recommended.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
12th Avn Gp
1st Avn Bde

OPORD-14 (14 Aug 69) 4th Inf

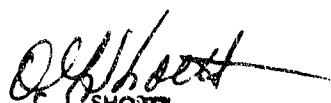
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 12th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96338 18 OCT 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Ass't AG

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16

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